

Independent Branches Made Wards:

Lark Ward, West Jordan Stake, formerly Lark Branch.
 LaJolla Ward, San Diego Stake, formerly LaJolla Branch.

Branch Transferred:

Thistle Branch, Kolob Stake, transferred to Palmyra Stake.

Independent Branches Disorganized:

Strawberry Branch, Duchesne Stake.
 Romedell Branch, Blaine Stake.

General Authorities Who Have Passed Away:

Elder Rufus K. Hardy of the First Council of Seventy died March 7, 1945.

Elder Samuel O. Bennion of the First Council of Seventy died March 8, 1945.

Others:

Elder Stephen L. Chipman, president of the Salt Lake Temple, died March 31, 1945.

William H. Richards, former president of the Malad Stake, died April 2, 1945.

STATISTICS

Number of Stakes of Zion	148
Number of Wards	1,150
Number of Independent Branches	128

Total Wards and Independent Branches	1,273
Number of Missions	39

Church Membership:

Stakes	792,362
Missions	161,642
Total	954,004

Church Growth:

Children blessed in stakes and missions	27,522
Children baptized in stakes and missions	16,511
Converts baptized in stakes and missions	5,493

Social Statistics:

Birth rate per thousand	36.2
Marriage rate per thousand	13.6
Death rate per thousand, including those reported killed or missing in military service	6.4

GENERAL CONFERENCE

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Missionaries:

Number of missionaries in the missions of the Church	478
Number engaged in missionary work in the Stakes	2,947
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Total missionaries	3,425
Number of missionaries who received training in the mission home during 1944	386
Service men from stakes reported killed and missing in military action	986

CHURCH DISBURSEMENTS, 1944

The following annual financial report covering all disbursements of the Church for 1944 and summarizing the Church Welfare Program for the same year, was read by President J. Reuben Clark, Jr.

Part 1—CHURCH BUDGET CASH EXPENDITURES FROM GENERAL CHURCH FUNDS BOTH TITHING AND NON-TITHING INCOMES

Total Cash Budget Appropriations for 1944	\$5,326,239.00
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	Budget Ap- propriation for 1944	Budget Ex- penditures for 1944	1944 Expend- itures Under or in Excess of Appropriation
<i>Office of the Corporation of the President:</i> Including salaries of 49 employees; expenses of office; equipment; maintenance of the Administration Building; and the living allowances and traveling expenses of the General Authorities, all of which are covered by non-tithing income	\$ 310,500.00	\$ 274,722.00	\$ 35,778.00

Office of the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop:

Including the salaries of 173 employees; office expenses and equipment; maintenance of Bishop's Building; expenses of the Aaronic Priesthood program; traveling expenses of the Presiding Bishopric; taxes; special printing; and maintenance of the Purchasing Department and Motor Avenue supply storehouse, all of which are covered by non-tithing income	153,950.00	164,998.00	11,048.00
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Temples:

For the operating expenses, including salaries of 226 employees, and building maintenance, repairs and renovating of the Alberta, Arizona, Hawaiian, Idaho Falls, Logan, Manti, St. George, and Salt Lake Temples	319,644.00	285,991.00	33,653.00
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	Budget Ap- propriation for 1944	Budget Ex- penditures for 1944	1944 Ex- penditures Under or in Excess of Appropriation
<i>Missions and Missionary Work:</i>			
For the maintenance and operating expenses of the 20 missions in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Hawaiian Islands, and South America; living and traveling expenses of the mission presidents; return fares of missionaries; free literature; servicemen's welfare; the erection, purchase, remodeling, maintenance and renting of buildings; the expenses of the Bureaus of information in Salt Lake City, Washington, D. C., Carthage Jail (Illinois), Cumorah (Palmyra), and Joseph Smith Farm (South Royalton, Vermont), and the mission home in Salt Lake City	744,500.00	624,176.00	120,324.00
<i>Stake and Ward Expenses:</i>			
Allowances to 148 stakes and 1,278 wards and independent branches, including the maintenance of 115 stake and 1,286 ward and branch buildings; expenses and mileage allowances to stake presidents and bishops; furnishings for stake and ward offices; stake and ward taxes; and stake and ward printing	1,014,500.00	1,069,519.00	55,019.00
<i>Church Welfare:</i>			
For the purchase of canning and other equipment and commodity purchases; for the operating expenses of General Committee storehouses, the Deseret Industries and the Deseret Clothing Factory; for land and building purchases and General Committee administrative expenses. This sum accounts for budget expenditures only, total welfare expenditures to follow in detail	392,100.00	285,949.00	106,151.00
<i>Church Schools:</i>			
For the operating expenses of the Brigham Young University, Ricks College, Juarez Stake Academy, 12 institutes and 99 seminaries; for the operating expenses of the Department of Education, including the salaries of 355 teachers and 8 administrative officers and office employees; and for maintenance, repairs, and improvements to buildings	907,320.00	857,098.00	50,222.00
<i>Educational Institutions (other than Church Schools, Institutes and Seminaries):</i>			
Consisting of the McCune School of Music and Art; Lund Home for Boys, Deseret Gymnasium, Society for the Aid of the Sightless, and the General Music Committee	51,200.00	46,843.00	4,357.00

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	Budget Ap- propriation for 1944	Budget Ex- penditures for 1944	1944 Expend- itures Under or in Excess of Appropriation
<i>Building Operations:</i>			
For the maintenance of the buildings and grounds, Temple Block; for the maintenance of other Church properties situated immediately adjacent to the Temple Block; for repairs and renovation of ward buildings; and \$109,322.00 for the construction of hospital buildings	1,033,908.00	758,057.00	275,851.00
<i>Historic Monuments and Properties:</i>			
For the repair and maintenance of properties at Palmyra, New York; South Royalton, Vermont; the Carthage Jail; and memorial cemeteries	15,257.00	16,272.00	1,015.00
<i>Indian Projects:</i>			
In the Papago and Washaki Wards. There is to be credited against this deficit the returns from sale of 1944 crops, which will amount to more than the deficit	5,000.00	20,299.00	15,299.00
<i>Church Committee on Radio and Publicity:</i>			
For publicity and mission literature	24,644.00	11,163.00	13,481.00
<i>Genealogical Society of Utah and Index Bureau:</i>			
For the maintenance of the Church Genealogical Library, Record Archives, Temple Index Bureau and allied departments, and for the recording, indexing, photographing and filing of genealogical and temple ordinance data, including the records of 114,212 families forwarded to the 8 temples for baptisms, endowments and sealings; also for the salaries of 124 full-time employees	151,016.00	165,908.00	14,892.00
(Deficit due to delay in receiving funds in 1943 which, if paid and charged in that year, would have resulted in a budget credit balance of \$665.00 at the close of 1944).			
<i>Other Expenses:</i>			
Consisting of contributions to civic organizations, such as the Red Cross, Community Chest, State University, etc.; salaries of tabernacle choir conductors and organists; taxes, legal expenses; contributions to hospitals, welfare assistance by the general Church office; public liability and other insurance, etc.	202,700.00	163,283.00	39,417.00
<i>Total Budget and Expenditures:</i>\$ 5,326,239.00 \$ 4,744,278.00 \$ 581,961.00			

All unexpended balances revert back into the unappropriated funds of the Church.

Part II—NON-BUDGET AND NON-TITHING EXPENDITURES FROM
 CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
 FOR THE YEAR 1944

The expenditures budgeted from general Church funds and paid principally from the tithes are detailed above. The following expenditures were made from further contributions by members of the Church:

Paid for stake and ward building purposes	\$ 526,047.00
Expended for stake, ward, and mission maintenance purposes, expenses of auxiliary organizations, and for recreation	1,542,920.00
Expended from ward and mission fast offerings	497,304.00
Expended from welfare contributions	283,357.00
Assistance rendered to missionaries	31,679.00
Expended from General Board dues and children's contributions to the Primary Hospital	128,615.00
Expended by Church schools, in addition to amount listed under budget expenditures, from funds derived from tuitions and other sources	386,180.00
Disbursed by the Relief Society for direct assistance and for general welfare purposes and health work	92,115.00
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Total non-budget cash expenditures 1944, from contributions, other than tithing, donated by the Church membership	\$ 3,488,235.00
Expended by the hospitals for the care of the sick in addition to the amount paid from the tithes and included in Part I	38,140.00
Total budget cash expenditures by general Church offices brought forward from above	4,744,278.00
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Total cash expenditures, budget and non-budget, of the Church for 1944	\$ 8,270,653.00

Part III—THE CHURCH WELFARE PROGRAM

Fast Offering Data:

Number of Church members who paid voluntary fast offerings and welfare contributions:

In the Wards	193,031
In the Missions	28,153
Total	221,184
Per cent of Church membership who paid fast offerings	29.6%
Average fast offerings per capita in wards	80c
Average fast offerings per capita in missions (based on membership of missions reporting)	38c
Average fast offerings per capita—wards and missions	74c
Amount of voluntary fast offerings and welfare contributions:	
In the wards:	
Fast Offerings	\$ 523,700.00
Welfare Contributions	305,303.00
In the Missions:	
Fast Offerings	43,189.00
Total fast offerings and welfare contributions	\$ 872,192.00

GENERAL CONFERENCE

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Welfare Program Cash Expenditures:

Expended from ward and mission fast offerings and welfare contributions for the care of the needy, consisting of food, clothing, rents, light, heat, hospitalization, burials, etc., and for the operation of bishops' and regional storehouses and the purchase of commodities for storehouses	780,661.00
Disbursed by the Relief Society for direct assistance and for general welfare purposes and health work	92,115.00
Disbursed by the General Welfare Committee for direct assistance and welfare purposes and for the overhead expenses of the General Committee	73,549.00
Disbursed by the office of the General Authorities for direct assistance	24,933.00
Expended by the hospitals for the care of the sick	38,140.00
Total relief cash expenditures for the year, all included in above grand total of budget and non-budget cash expenditures	\$ 1,009,398.00
This is an increase over the year 1943 of	88,014.00
Total amount of Relief Society wheat stored in Church elevators December 31, 1944 (bushels)	315,135
In addition to the cash expenditure of \$1,009,398.00 for welfare purposes, the General Church Welfare Committee makes the following further financial report, with a statement indicating the production and distribution of commodities for bishops' storehouses and inventory of commodities December 31, 1944:	

Summary of the Annual Report of the Church Welfare Plan:

December 31, 1944

FINANCIAL REPORT

Present Net Cash Value:

Current Assets (Net)	\$ 658,265.88
Inventories (Principally Commodities)	584,062.30
Fixed Assets (Land, Buildings, etc.)	1,522,172.54
TOTAL	\$ 2,764,500.72

Fixed Assets Include:

Deseret Industries, Deseret Mills and Elevators, Deseret Clothing Factory, Emery Coal Mine.

Ninety-five bishops' storehouses having a total floor area of 381,392 square feet. This is fifty times the area covered by the Assembly Hall; ten times the area covered by the Tabernacle; and nine-tenths the area of the whole Temple Block. There are sixty-seven canneries included in the bishops' storehouses.

Farms, ranches, dairies, and other regional and stake properties, made up of 3,453 acres of land, together with buildings, improvements, equipment, and livestock.

The Fixed Assets Were Acquired With:

\$ 564,480.69 Cash from general Church funds, through the General Committee.
 688,279.33 Cash from wards, stakes, regions, and Priesthood quorums.
 269,412.52 Donations, Labor and Property.

\$ 1,522,172.54

The Fixed Assets Consist of:

\$ 325,445.77 Land.
941,326.64 Buildings
189,329.85 Equipment.
41,446.28 Furniture and Fixtures.
24,624.00 Livestock.

\$ 1,522,172.54

Production, Distribution, Inventory, and Budget Assignment of Commodities Connected with Bishops' Storehouses.

Items	Unit	1944 Production	1944 Distribution	Inventory December 31, 1944	1945 Budget Assignment
Canned Produce (Milk, Vegetables, Fruits, Jams and Spreads)	quarts	646,381	485,338	1,494,854	1,282,639
Animal Products (Butter, Eggs, and Meat)	pounds	346,114	440,785	80,726	701,636
Vegetables, Fruits and Sugar (Not Canned)	pounds	2,300,530	2,226,250	848,954	2,024,300
Grains (and Grain Products)	bushels	36,240	16,400	52,753	87,940
Other Foods (49 Different Items)	pounds	50,324	25,919	63,993	52,383
Various Drugs and Household Supplies and Soaps..	items	94,494	110,055	98,745	79,700
Hay	tons	332	790	1,283	270
Cotton	500 lb. bales	12	47	38	25
Seeds and Miscellaneous	pounds	7,000	13,000	714	7,500
Fuel (Mostly Coal)	tons	438	1,339	1,161	500
Clothing and Dry Goods (329 Different Items)	articles	89,069	59,117	119,208	112,738
Furniture	articles	50	142	246	500

When the inventories and the 1945 budget assignments in the foregoing tabulation are compared with 1944 distribution, it is apparent that a surplus is being built in some non-perishable foodstuffs. To protect this surplus, distribution of foodstuffs, in so far as possible, is first made from the oldest stocks, which are from the 1942 pack. Most of the inventories are made up from 1943 and 1944 production.

Unavoidably there is some spoilage in the program, but expert investigation shows it is now not more, in the canning of fruits and vegetables, than occurs in commercial businesses handling similar items; nor is it greater with fresh fruits and vegetables, handled as such, taking into consideration the condition and grades of the product when received.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

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Activities of the Program During 1944, Canning and Processing for Storehouse Program:

Vegetables, Fruits, Jams, and Spreads	494,264 quarts	(697,554 cans)
Meat, Fish, and Fowl	18,749 pounds	(21,273 cans)
Milk, Canned (Each Can Equivalent to One Quart of Fresh Milk)	143,856 cans	
Miscellaneous Foods (Spices, Flavoring, etc) ..	13,980 pounds	
Flour, Cereals, and Livestock Feeds	251,097 pounds	

Group Canning:

The following canning was done at Welfare canneries for their own use by 540 groups, consisting of 45,615 people:

Fruits and Vegetables	652,659 quarts	(893,053 cans)
Meat and Fish	15,756 pounds	(23,143 cans)
		(916,196 cans)

Field Activities:

Field activities carried on in the production of the 1944 Welfare Budget include 1,217 crop projects, cultivating 2,729 acres of land; 361 livestock projects, which produced 754 head of livestock, 2,641 chickens, 1,907 rabbits, and 170 stands of bees.

In addition to the work done on these projects, 17,220 man days of donated work were done in the storehouse and processing plants.

For the purposes other than the production of the budget for the bishops' storehouse program, there were 326 crop projects, 11 livestock projects and 32 manufacturing projects operated during 1944. These projects utilized 440 acres of land.

Assistance Rendered:

Each year since 1938 there have been from 17,913 to 55,460 persons receive temporary assistance as to food, shelter, fuel, or clothing, through the bishops' storehouse program. In 1944 there were 27,164 persons so assisted. The Church has relieved the government of that much load.

In addition to this, there were, during this period (1938-1945) more than 851 distressed families that have been made entirely self-supporting; 6,041 persons have been assisted towards a permanent betterment in other ways, such as contributions to prevent business failures and mortgage foreclosures, to build or remodel homes, to aid families suffering from sickness or infirmities, to help needy farmers get equipment and to plant and harvest crops, to aid families to get necessary furniture for homes, and for many other like purposes; and 1,611 construction projects (shelter and housing) have been completed in addition to the construction of the bishops' storehouse program.

Persons Taken From Government Relief Rolls:

During 1944, 173 males and 319 females (total 492) have been removed from government relief rolls. Of this number 139 have been rehabilitated and are receiving no aid from the Church or from the government; 249 are receiving part of their support from the Church; and 104 are receiving all their needs from the Church. Of those receiving aid from the Church, 78 are working on Welfare projects, and only 96 are entirely unemployed. Since January 1, 1943, 707 persons have been removed from government relief rolls.

President Clark:

The primary purpose of the welfare plan has always been the supplying of food and clothing, shelter and fuel. There seems to be a great deal of uncertainty today as to what the real food situation of the country is. Some tell us we are faced with the greatest surplus that has ever existed in the history of the country. Others tell us that the food supply is short and that we should raise all we can.

Under these circumstances the only safe thing is to assume a food shortage and proceed accordingly. I therefore urge you brethren to urge your wards and stakes to fill their quotas in order that we may be prepared should the predicted shortage occur.

A WHISPERING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE WELFARE PLAN

Reports come to us that some persons, we hope not many, are carrying on what politicians call a "whispering campaign" against the welfare plan, proclaiming it a failure. At least some of these whisperers seem to have been against the plan from the first, professing to see in it some deep-laid political scheme.

I am sure you will let me say now, and I was with the brethren when the plan was first worked out, that there was not then, there has not been since, and there is not now, any political purpose or end whatsoever in the plan. Those who proclaim the contrary are either wholly ignorant or completely misinformed.

The report I have read is a full demonstration that the plan is not a failure. Of course, if the people will not support it, so that the Lord withdraws his blessings from it, the plan will fall, but to this time the great loyal body of the Church, following the inspiration of the Lord, has supported the plan which has had a truly marvelous growth both in extent and in efficiency. All of us thank the brethren and sisters who have had immediate charge of the building up and operation of the plan, and sincerely congratulate them upon the outstanding success which has attended their work.

The general committee, composed in large part of business and professional men, have given unstintedly of their time and effort without any monetary compensation whatsoever, in a service which has brought needed aid and succor to tens of thousands who needed help. The Lord has blessed and will continue to bless them in their labor and lives. To the sisters of the general board of the Relief Society, and to the Relief Society workers throughout the Church, we offer our especial thanks and gratitude for their great service, without which we should have been almost helpless.

You will remember that back in the early days of the Church, it took the people in Missouri approximately three years and four

months to forfeit the blessings of the United Order. If you will read the revelations and the history of the time, you will find that it was the greed, rapacity, idleness, and covetousness of the people that caused the Lord to withdraw the principle from their midst. After they reached Nauvoo, the Prophet forbade our people then in Iowa to attempt to set it up there.

The welfare plan, which I once more repeat is not the United Order but is motivated by the same lofty and divine principles and purposes that underlay the Order, has now been in operation nine years. Through the blessings of the Lord and the faithfulness of the people, it has steadily grown and expanded its activities during the whole period; and it stands today stronger than ever before in its operation.

Its opponents have not destroyed and cannot destroy it, so long as the Lord blesses it and faithful members support it.

AID OF ALL CHURCH MEMBERS NEEDED

I might add another word:

To those opponents who are Church members, I wish earnestly to say: We need you now; we have needed you in the past; we would welcome you amongst us. Furthermore, we wish to say that if you desire or hope to keep the Spirit of the Lord and enjoy his blessings, you must cease your fault-finding and sometimes even your maligning of those doing their appointed tasks as servants of the Lord, and fall in and work with them, not against them. We need the aid of every member of the Church; we ask your help, but not so much on our account as on yours. This is a plea directed towards helping you to save yourselves from a threatened apostasy, which seems usually to follow fault-finding, disloyalty, and opposition to the Lord's plans.

However, if you refuse to aid, if you refuse to receive the blessings of joy and satisfaction which come from treading along the ways the Lord points out, we should point out to you that the welfare plan has lived, and we feel certain it will live so long as the Lord continues to give his blessings to the plan, and so long as the loyal, faithful members of the Church support it. But for your sakes we should rejoice beyond measure in your assistance.

We ask you bishops and presidents of stakes and chairmen of regions, not to substitute cash for the actual produce called for in filling your quotas. We need the produce, so please furnish your quotas in the kinds requested.

REPORT OF CHURCH AUDITING COMMITTEE

Elder Orval W. Adams read the following report of the Church Auditing Committee:

Salt Lake City, Utah
April 4, 1945

President Heber J. Grant and Counselors
47 East South Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Brethren:

Your Committee reviewed the annual financial report of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the year ending December 31, 1944. That report discloses the Church to be in the strongest financial position in its history.

The expense of administration is very conservative. The Church is free of all debt. The sustained Authorities are administering with great care the sacred funds of the membership, which funds are contributed by the tens of thousands of devoted members, most of whom are people of limited income.

Respectfully submitted,

Orval W. Adams
A. E. Bowen
George S. Spencer
Harold W. Bennett
Church Auditing Committee

ELDER STEPHEN L RICHARDS
Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

I propose to use the opportunity afforded me at this general conference of the Church to read a letter which I have prepared. My thought in presenting it here is that the message of my letter may have better prospects of reaching those to whom it is addressed, and also that the sentiments which I have expressed may serve some useful purpose with my brethren and sisters in an endeavor comparable to my own. I shall be most grateful if this thinking proves to be justifiable. The letter is addressed:

To my friends and associates in various lines of endeavor who are not identified with the Church which I have the honor to represent.

TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH SET FORTH IN A LETTER

My dear friends:

For many years it has run in my mind a desire to approach you on the subject of religion. I find it difficult to justify my delay and to discover any good reason why I have been so hesitant to talk with you